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Aktenzeichen/File No./No. du Dossier

RS 111540 US

Datum/Date

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URC LAW

Das Europäische Patentamt übermittelt hiermit den Standardrecherchenbericht zu dem unten bezeichneten Antrag; Kopien der im Recherchenbericht angeführten Schriften werden in der Anlage beigefügt.

The European Patent Office herewith transmits the Standard Search Report relating to the request indicated below; copies of the documents cited in the search report are enclosed.

L'Office Européen des Brevets à l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-joint le Rapport de Recherche concernant la demande désignée ci-dessous; des copies des documents cités sont jointes.

Zeichen und Datum des Antrages Applicant's reference and date Références et date de la demande	2004UR013
Dokument, Gegenstand der Recherche Document subject of the search Objet de la recherche	USP 57273604
Einreichungstag Filing date Date de dépôt	20/05/2004
Beanspruchte Priorität Priority claimed Priorité revendiquée	

OFFICE EUROPÉEN DES BREVETS
Pour le Vice-Président,

R. de Best



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim
	LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION see sheet B -----	
X	FR 2 737 767 A (SIGMATEC INGENIERIE) 14 February 1997 (1997-02-14) * the whole document *	1,2
A	-----	3-7,19
A	FR 1 383 795 A (GAZ DE FRANCE) 4 January 1965 (1965-01-04) -----	
A	DE 26 36 622 A (DYCKERHOFF & WIDMANN AG; LINDE AG) 16 February 1978 (1978-02-16) -----	
A	US 4 207 827 A (GONDOUIN MICHEL) 17 June 1980 (1980-06-17) -----	
A	GB 1 554 113 A (MOTHERWELL BRIDGE ENG LTD) 17 October 1979 (1979-10-17) -----	
		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
		F17C
1	The present search report has been drawn up for all claims	
	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
	1 October 2004	Nicol, B
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document		



The Search Division considers that the present patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-7,19

An LNG full containment system, comprising a floor slab, a primary container positioned on the floor slab, the primary container being insulated to hold liquefied natural gas, and a secondary container peripherally positioned around the primary container, the secondary container comprising a plurality of composite walls attached to the floor slab, with each of the composite walls being formed from a plurality of prefabricated wall panels configured to be adjoined in side-to-side fashion, and wherein each of the prefabricated wall panels comprises:
a concrete plate having a longitudinal axis and an outer surface, and at least one steel beam connected to the outer surface of the concrete plate along the longitudinal axis of the concrete plate;
and a method for assembling such a container.

2. claims: 8-18

A method of assembling an LNG full containment system, comprising the steps of:
- pouring a slab fabricated at least in part from concrete;
- erecting a first end wall on the floor slab;
- erecting first and second side walls on the floor slab, the first and second side walls being connected to the first end wall at opposite ends, but being angled relative to the first end wall to leave an opening for receiving a second end wall so that a polygonal enclosure having at least four sides may be formed;
- providing a roof structure that is supported at least in part by the side walls;
- moving a substantially assembled primary container into the secondary container; and
- erecting the second end wall so as to enclose the primary container within the secondary container.

3. claims: 20-22

A wall panel for a container, the container being employed with a full containment LNG system, the wall panel comprising a concrete plate having an inner surface, an outer surface, and a longitudinal axis, at least one steel beam connected to the concrete plate along the outer surface of the concrete plate, and along the longitudinal axis, wherein the wall panel is configured so that a plurality of wall panels may be adjoined in side-to-side fashion so as to form a wall of a secondary container for the full containment LNG system.



The Search Division considers that the present patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

4. claims: 23-25

A roof panel for a container, the container being employed with a full containment LNG system, the wall panel comprising an elongated steel truss structure, a barrier layer placed over the steel truss structure, at least one thin concrete plate placed over the barrier layer along a longitudinal axis of the concrete plate, wherein the roof panel is configured so that a plurality of roof panels may be adjoined in side-to-side fashion so as to form a roof of a secondary container for the full containment LNG system.

The search has been limited to the invention first mentioned in the claims. A search for each of the other inventions can be carried out upon your request. For each additional invention a standard search fee will be due.

The four groups of inventions defined by claims 1-7, 19 and 8-18 and 20-22 and 23-25 comprise the following structural features in the sense of Rule 30(1) EPC:

Claims 1-7, 19

Structural feature: a tank for containing LNG

The problem to be solved is to achieve the effect of: find an arrangement compatible with very low temperatures

Solution: selection of an insulation and of suitable materials

Claims 8-18

Structural feature: method of inserting a tank within another one

The problem to be solved is to achieve the effect of: prefabricate a whole tank

Solution: build the outer tank around the inner tank

Claims 20-22

Structural feature: a wall panel made of concrete

The problem to be solved is to achieve the effect of: rapid assembly of structure

Solution: prefabricate wall panels

Claims 23-25

Structural feature: a roof comprising a steel truss structure

The problem to be solved is to achieve the effect of: provide rapidly a structure with a roof

Solution: preassembly the roof

Since there is no relationship between the structural features, nor between the effects of the structural features or their respective solutions, the group of inventions of claims 1-7, 19 and 8-18 and 20-22



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**LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B**

Application Number
RS 111540
US 57273604

The Search Division considers that the present patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

and 23-25 are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept as required by Article 82 EPC.

ANNEX TO THE STANDARD SEARCH REPORT NO.

RS 111540
US 57273604

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

01-10-2004

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